

# Southeast News

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REV. NORMAN JACKSON

## SEC Annual Meeting June 8-10

"Because We Are One People" is the theme of the 1979 Annual Meeting of the Southeast Conference to be held Friday through Sunday, June 8-10 at Talladega College, Talladega, AL.

Guest leaders for the Annual Meeting include Rev. Norman W. Jackson, Executive Associate to the President, UCC who will be available during a "Buzz Session" at 10:00 p.m. Saturday night.

Providing the Keynote Address will be the Rev. Dr. Peggy Way, Assistant Professor of Pastoral Theology, Vanderbilt University, who will address the subject of human sexuality.

Dr. Joseph N. Gayles, President of Talladega College, will welcome the delegates on Saturday morning and share some of the heritage of Talladega College.

Costs for the Annual Meeting will be \$29 per person, which includes two night's lodging in the college dormitories and five meals. Reservation blanks have been mailed and should arrive shortly at Conference churches.

A few persons might wish to find housing in motels not too far away.

The Meeting will begin at 7:30 p.m. on

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## Energy Conservation: Many Benefits

North Congregational United Church of Christ, North Amherst, Massachusetts, cut heating-oil consumption in the 150-year-old church and its parish house from 10,000 gal. to 3,300 gal. a year by insulating and installing a new burner and a heat-circulating fan.

Members reported they "wanted to burn less and spend more on mission." Added bonus: a quieter, more comfortable church.

## Van Vactors Remembered

We remember Maisie Dorland Van Vactor, missionary of the United Church Board for World Ministries and librarian at Dansalan College in Marawi City, Mindanao, Philippines. Maisie died of cardiac arrest on March 17th following emergency surgery for an intestinal blockage. She had been airlifted to the hospital in Quezon City, near Manila, where the surgery was performed. She had served the UCBWM in the Philippines with her husband, Lloyd, since 1954.

We are thankful for the release of Lloyd B. Van Vactor, missionary of the United Church Board for World Ministries and President of Dansalan College. Lloyd was released by guerrillas on March 28th, after being held in captivity since March 9th. While Lloyd was aware of Maisie's illness and surgery, he was unaware of her death until after his release.

Lloyd's release was negotiated by a small group of persons headed by United Church Missionary, Dr. Peter G. Gowing, director of the Dansalan Research Center, an institution that is related to Dansalan College and that focuses on Christian-Muslim understanding and dialogue. The helpfulness from all sectors of the community is an indication of the respect in which Maisie and Lloyd Van Vactor and Dansalan College and the Research Center are held by the Muslim community.

Dansalan College, located in the midst of the Maranao Muslim population of

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HON. MRS. ANNIE JIAGGE

## Indianapolis Site of 12th General Synod

A proposed union with the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) is one of the major issues United Church of Christ delegates will wrestle with when the 1.8 million-member denomination holds its 12th General Synod in Indianapolis June 22-26.

Other issues to be debated by the 700 delegates include human sexuality, programs to aid the aged and the handicapped, human rights and a proposal to establish a Coordinating Center for Women in Church and Society.

During the past 18 months, there have been informal discussions between local UCC and Disciples Churches and regional and national agencies about a possible union of the two churches. In March the UCC Executive Council and the Disciples Administrative Committee voted separately to refer to their respective assemblies a proposal for the two churches to "covenant with each other" and commit themselves to six years' study and work together. Both the UCC General Synod and the Disciples' General Assembly in the Fall must approve the plan before it can go

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## Check List For Ministers and Lay Workers

Professional career leaders need an adequate financial support system for themselves and their families. The Pension Board of the United Church of Christ suggest the following ten-point guide:

1. Annuity — full 11% dues paid by employer to the Pension Boards to provide for retirement.
2. Group Health Insurance — paid in full by employer.
3. Group Disability and Life Protection — paid by employer through the Pension Board's Family Protection Plan and the Group Life Insurance Plan.
4. Designation of Beneficiary for Annuity and Insurance Plans should be up-to-date.
5. Current salary report should be on file with the Pension Boards.
6. Full participation in Social Security.
7. Housing — If there is a housing allowance for a minister, employer should pass a suitable vote prior to the start of each year. If a parsonage is provided, it should be valued at 30% of cash salary in computing salary basis.
8. Business costs provided by the employer — realistic automobile expenses, funds for continuing education, library, hospitality, etc.
9. Annual review of salary and other compensation.
10. Extra retirement income secured by voluntary salary reduction, with the amount paid by employer to the Pension Boards to purchase additional "tax-deferred" annuity benefits.

## General Synod cont.-

into effect.

Opponents of "Human Sexuality: A Preliminary Study" and its accompanying recommendations for action claim that its biblical interpretations are unsound and that it is too positive with respect to homosexuality. They will attempt to get the Synod to withdraw the "Report." They are also anxious to have the General Synod oppose ordination of homosexuals. The opponents are organized nationally as "United Church People for Biblical Witness."

UCC President Avery D. Post, New York will open the Synod with an address on ecumenical issues and the state of the church. The Hon. Mrs. Annie Jagge, chief justice of Ghana and one of the six presidents of the World Council of Churches, will deliver the keynote address.



Speaking at the 1979 Southeast Conference Annual Meeting are [top] Rev. Peggy Way and [bottom] Dr. Joseph N. Gayles.



## Christian Growth Institute Held

The Women's Fellowship of Lanett Congregational-Christian Church, UCC, held a "Christian Growth Institute" on April 23. Leadership in a variety of fields was excellent. Topics discussed included:

1. The Family in a Changing Society, Mr. E. Ray Warner, Leader.
2. The Year of the Child, Leaders — Hon. O. D. Alsobrook assisted by Dr. Gail McGhee and Miss Lynda Kerr.
3. God's Plan for Economy in the Home, Leader — Mrs. Nelson Smith.
4. Growing in Faith, Sharing and Caring, Leader — Mr. Albert Thornton.

## Mannings To Serve In Nigeria

Rev. Kenneth and Barbara Manning, members of Pilgrim Congregational Church, U.C.C. in Birmingham, AL, will be leaving about the first of September for Nigeria, where Rev. Manning has been invited to serve as Visiting Professor of Law at Ahmadu Bello University at Zaria. This will be for two academic years with the summers free for travel.

Samford University has granted Rev. Manning a two year's leave of absence, and he will return to his professorship there in September, 1981.

## SEC meeting cont.-

Friday, June 8 with the convening of Review Committees and will conclude at 1:00 p.m. on Sunday, June 10 following morning worship and lunch.

Youth, grades 7-12, are urged to attend. Once again this year the SEC Youth Core will provide leadership for youth programs and activities during the annual meeting.

Each church is entitled to three (3) delegates. Churches having a membership of over one hundred (100) members shall be entitled to one additional voting delegate for each additional 100 members or major fraction thereof.

All ordained and licensed ministers in the Conference have voting privileges and are urged to attend.

## Van Vactors cont. -

western Mindanao, provides secondary-school training for a student body that is more than 95% Muslim. Headstart and guidance programs have enabled Dansalan graduates to rank with students from the very best high schools of Manila in national college entrance examinations.

Lloyd Van Vactor reported to the United Church Board for World Ministries, in a letter written three days before his abduction, that a former student had warned him that a new group of guerrillas in the area were "talking kidnapping." He had earlier agreed with other Americans at the College that in the event of a kidnapping, no ransom demands should be met, since to meet them would place all mission workers in jeopardy.

The armed guerrillas who abducted Van Vactor first sought 500,000 Pesos for his release (approximately \$68,000). Later, they sought "expenses" and a sum of approximately \$3,000 was raised by Dansalan alumni and by Muslim leaders.

Messages to Lloyd Van Vactor may be sent to: Dansalan College, P.O. Box 5430, Iligan City, Philippines 8801.

# WE Need Your Stamps

Elon Home for Children, Elon, N.C., hopes that with the help of friends enough trading stamps and coupons can be collected to purchase a later model bus than the one they already have.

Several years ago, the Home purchased a used school bus which had a 1954 body and a 1975 motor. It has served them well for four years, but the need has developed for replacement of this vehicle. It is in such condition that the Home does not feel that it can depend on the bus for transporting their children to many places where it must take numbers of boys and girls at one time. A recent trip to the circus at Greensboro is an example, for the Home had to use two vans and 10 passenger cars because of fears that the bus could not make the trip.

The Home appeals to their friends to send them stamps and coupons and checks for use in buying the needed bus.

Red Scissors, Bonus Gifts, cigarette coupons, and all kinds of trading stamps, such as S&H Green Stamps, Gold Bond, Triple S Plaid, and Top Value can be used. "Cents-Off" coupons cannot be used. Betty Crocker (General Mills) coupons cannot be used toward buying the bus, but they are welcomed, because they can be used to obtain merchandise for the cottages.

Please send your contributions to The Elon Home for Children, P.O. Box 157, Elon College, N.C. 27244.

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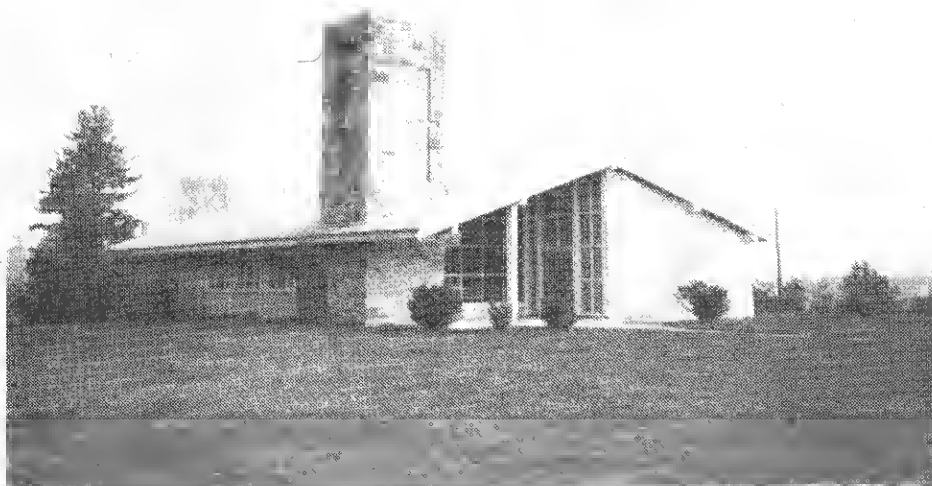
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PLEASANT HILL, TN, COMMUNITY CHURCH, UCC

## AROUND THE CONFERENCE

### Pleasant Hill, Tn., Community Church UCC

From the Atlantic Ocean to the Mississippi River, from the Gulf of Mexico to the mountains of Tennessee, the Southeast Conference covers a broad expanse of territory. Contained within her boundaries are some 120 churches — widely dispersed — widely diverse in heritage and religious expression — and yet united in the conviction that the churches of Jesus Christ "may all be one."

Representing one of our mountain communities is Community Church, UCC in Pleasant Hill, Tennessee. Community Church's heritage is an interesting one. Like most frontier settlements, the first public building to be built in Pleasant Hill was the schoolhouse, which was completed in 1873. In the fall of 1884 the American Missionary Association sent the Rev. Benjamin Dodge and his family to organize a church and to start a school for secondary education.

In the spring of 1885 "The First Congregational Church of Pleasant Hill" was organized in the schoolhouse and a Statement of Faith and a Covenant were adopted. In the meantime, Father Dodge, as he was affectionately known, was working to secure a new and larger school building and early in 1887 the first building of the Pleasant Hill Academy was occupied as a schoolhouse. The Church used this Academy Building for their various services from 1887 to 1929, or 42 years. During the early years the Church was maintained by the A.M.A., and much of the time the pulpit was supplied by the Principal of the Academy or the members

of the staff.

As the church grew, agitation began for the Church to have a building of its own and in 1929 the Community House was finished. This is a two-story building — the first story of which was used for church purposes with an apartment built into the second story. The name of the Church was changed to Pleasant Hill Community Church. During the days of the Academy, Pleasant Hill served as a regular Conference Center.

The present Church building, seating 160, was completed in 1959 and the Community House, which was remodeled in 1953, still serves as a Fellowship Hall for the Church and as a center for many community activities. Of the 181 members, 80% are from the Uplands Retirement Center and Wharton Nursing Home in Pleasant Hill and come from a variety of backgrounds.

Because there are few young people, there is no Sunday school as such but classes are held on Saturday or Sunday morning for the children and an Adult Study Group meets on Sunday night. One of the regular services supplied by the Church is the holding of Vesper Services on Tuesday evenings and Services of Communion at the Wharton Nursing Home. The pastor of the Church serves as Chaplain of the nursing home. Almost ever since its organization, the church has maintained a Thrift Shop for the distribution and selling of used clothes.

Rev. W. Walter Hall has been the church's pastor for the past seven years.



Western Cluster representatives [l-r] James T. McAdams, James E. Lauderdale, Curwood Jennings, J.K. Murphy

## Western Cluster At Work

The "Western (AL) Cluster" is hard at work at their latest mission fund raising effort for Habitat-For-Humanity. The "Western Cluster" is composed of the following churches: Montgomery First, Dadeville, Elder, East Tallassee, Alexander City First, and Watson's Chapel.

The Cluster has already raised over \$3,000 through the Smallwood Talent Fund and now have set a goal of \$1,500.

They plan to sponsor several musical talent contests featuring Gospel, Country & Western and Bluegrass in various towns in central and East Alabama. Money and trophies will be given in each category. Ticket sales will be the method of raising the money for the project.

The first contest will be at Alexander City's Russell Auditorium on Saturday night, June 2.

## Circular Church, Charleston

Congratulations to Rev. and Mrs. Bert Keller of the Circular Church, Charleston, SC, upon the birth of David Arrington Keller on April 9, 1979.

An event of special interest to Circular Church and friends occurred on April 26, 1979 when Dr. Diane Combs of Emory University spoke on "Tombstone Portraiture: Window to 18th Century American Culture" at the Church. She considers Circular to possess the most valuable treasure of such art south of New England.

Circular Church is planning to have a

group attend the Bible and Theology Conference at Montreat, NC June 12-16, 1979.

Circular's Tricentennial Committee is planning for the 300th Anniversary of the Church in 1981. The immediate concern is the restoration of the damaged tombstones . . . The Christian Education Committee is planning and publicizing the Church school program and Adult study groups, communicant classes, developing the library and coordinating other adult education events . . . The Ministry Committee is examining the role of the ministry, designing job descriptions and examining membership practices and involvement of new members in the life of the church.

Two projects are being developed at Circular: The Family Education Center and the Hospice project (the care of terminally ill persons).

## Is Your Stewardship Inflated?

Consider the following facts: if you bought a house five years ago for \$40,000, to maintain that same buying power today, you must sell it for \$58,280. If five years ago you made \$1,000 a month, you must get \$1,457 today to have the same buying power you had then.

If five years ago you gave \$100 a month to the church, today to give the equivalent in value it should be \$147.70. \$50 per week then would be \$72.85 now. The customary \$1.00 given for special offerings should really be changed to \$1.50 if you want to give the equivalent of the traditional \$1.00.

How well has your giving kept pace with inflation?

—Lanett CC Newsletter

## Andalusia, Antioch

This year is off to a busy start. January was our Annual Meeting for budget making which is most important. The sweetheart banquet in February was well attended by our South Alabama and North West Florida churches. Good food and Christian fun was shared and enjoyed. Easter Sunday was beautiful. Many churches had Sunrise services. Our church joined Mt. Zion Methodist Church. The children enjoyed the Easter egg hunt and many visitors came to church. Our church has two services on Sunday and prayer meeting on Wednesday nights. Our pastor, Rev. Elmer Carnes, is staying busy sharing God's love and God's word. Graduation will be here soon and Bible school is in the planning.

—Reporter, Bernice Carter



Rev. E.G. Clark, pastor of Wadley, Corinth Church displays a "de-limber" made commercially in his own machine shop. The device is a valuable time-saver for the woodcutting business.